

15. Cultural Heritage

Burnett Catchment Water Infrastructure - Burnett River Dam

This section describes the investigations into areas and objects of cultural heritage significance. It deals with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage. Native Title Claims are shown in **Figure 15.1**.

15.1 Existing Information

No items were identified on the Register of the National Estate, the Queensland Heritage Register and local Government Registers which would be impacted by the proposed construction of the Burnett River Dam.

An extensive review of existing literature was undertaken by Bonhomme Craib & Associates as part of the IES process, along with consultation with parties possessing knowledge of the areas likely to be impacted by the proposed Burnett River Dam.

15.2 Consultation

In this context, extensive consultation was undertaken with representatives of the Gurang People, the Gooreng Gooreng People, the Tarinbelang Bunda People, the Wakka Wakka People and with staff from the Gurang Land Council in Bundaberg.

Details of the project were provided on the likely extent of inundation associated with the Burnett River Dam. The information also included details relating to the raising of Walla Weir and a new weir at Eidsvold. Letters, along with copies of a draft Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), were sent to identified representatives of the groups mentioned above.

15.3 Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

The draft CHMP (**Appendix J**) embodies the principles which would apply to management of any sites identified through formal surveys which would be undertaken as a result of the project proceeding in accordance with approvals gained from the Local, Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. The principles would also apply to cultural materials, including human remains, discovered during the construction and operational phases of the project.

These surveys would be undertaken in accordance with provisions of the *Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act, 1987 (Qld)* (the “Cultural Record Act”).

The draft CHMP also provides processes for cultural awareness training or programs, along with a conflict resolution process for all staff involved in the construction of the Burnett River Dam, including contractors. The widespread circulation of the draft CHMP and its subsequent discussion in focused community meetings has ensured that Aboriginal groups or individuals who have a traditional affiliation with areas likely to be affected by the Burnett River Dam were involved in the development of the CHMP.

Adherence to the principles of the CHMP will ensure that relevant parties are involved in ongoing protection and management of areas and objectives of significance to their cultural heritage.

As part of mitigation strategies set out in the CHMP, any collection of objects of cultural significance or other artefactual material will be undertaken by an appropriately-qualified cultural heritage practitioner, in accordance with the appropriate permit issued under provisions of the Cultural Record Act.

Any impact assessment, protection and management strategies set out in the CHMP will meet, as a minimum, the statutory responsibilities provided in the *Queensland Heritage Act, 1992 (Qld)* and the Cultural Record Act.

Once the cultural heritage surveys have been undertaken, the likely impacts of the Burnett River Dam on areas and objects of cultural heritage significance, along with appropriate mitigation strategies can be described, through the incorporation of this information within the CHMP.

The Cultural Heritage Branch of the Environmental Protection Agency has been consulted and concurs with the approaches outlined in this document regarding compliance with requirements for consultation, documentation and reporting associated with the Water Infrastructure.

Burnett Catchment Water Infrastructure - Burnett River Dam

15.4 Cultural Heritage Reports

Details of investigations undertaken to date and associated findings are set out in the report from the archaeologist Bonhomme Craib and Associates (**Appendix K**). The consultation process found that there are significant indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage issues with regard to the proposed development of the Burnett River Dam and its increased inundation area.